

CONSIDERATIONS

Concerning the

EXPEDIENCY

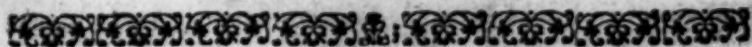
OF A

General Naturalization

OF

Foreign PROTESTANTS,

And OTHERS.



CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE DEEDS

OF THE

PROTESTANTS

AND OF THE

ROMAN CATHOLICS



IN THE



LONDON

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MDCCLXXV

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CONSIDERATIONS
Concerning the
EXPEDIENCY
OF A
General Naturalization
OF
Foreign PROTESTANTS, *Foreign*
And OTHERS. *K*

*Nunquam est Intermissa à Majoribus nostris,
Largitio et Communicatio Civitatis; itaque ex Latia
multi, — et ex cæteris Generibus Gentes universæ
in Civitatem sunt receptæ. — Cic. pro Balbo.*



L O N D O N:

Printed by E. SAY, in *Avenary-Lane*.

M D C C X L V I I .

CONSIDERATIONS

OF THE
EXPERIENCE
OF THE

GENERAL

FOR THE

AND

OF THE
MUSEUM

The
The



CONSIDERATIONS

Concerning the


EXPEDIENCY

OF A

General Naturalization

OF

Foreign PROTESTANTS, *and* Others.

I.  HE Proposition upon which the present Bill is founded, *That the Increase of People is the Means of advancing the Wealth and Strength of a Nation,* is so far from being generally true, that, with respect to *Foreigners,* it is so *only* in such Countries and Colonies that are *thinly peopled.*

2. The excessive Increase of the Poor's Rate, on a late Occasion, in *Somersetshire*, and other Counties, evidently proves this is not the Case of the manufacturing Counties of this Kingdom.

3. The Inviting into them a great Number of *poor Foreigners*, who will live and work *cheaper* than our own Subjects and Manufacturers, just after the Suppressing of a Rebellion, and almost at the Eve of a new Parliament, appears to be a very *unpopular*, not to say *improper*, Method of Increasing the Wealth of a Nation. — In Proportion as the *poor* foreign Manufacturers grow *rich*, many of the *Natives* will probably become *Beggars*.

4. There are Persons living who remember the Clamour that was raised on passing the Act for a General Naturalization of Foreign Protestants in 1708, and the Treatment many worthy Persons received who voted for it; *that*, and the bringing

bringing over the poor *Palatines*, was one of the popular Cries raised against them on the Election of the New Parliament, which met the 27th of *November*, 1710.

5. On the 15th of *January*, 1710, very early in the Session, the House of Commons order'd an Enquiry upon what Invitation or Encouragement the *Palatines* came over, and the same Day they gave Leave to bring in a Bill to repeal the Act for *Naturalizing Foreign Protestants*, which passed the Commons, but was rejected by the Lords,

6. If it was intended by this Bill to prevent the *French Refugees* from enjoying the Benefit of the Act of Naturalization, it had a quite contrary Effect, since above 2000 of them were naturalized between the Time the Motion for bringing the Bill into the House of Commons was made, and its being rejected by the Lords; whereas the whole Number who had be-

fore

fore taken Advantage of it did not exceed
1800.

7. The Experience of a great Number of Years, and the Perfection and great Extent to which the *French* Refugees have since brought the Silk and many other Manufactures, fully prove how useful General Bills of Naturalization, under proper Restrictions, may be to this Kingdom.

8. On the 14th of April, 1711, the House of Commons came to a Resolution, that whoever advised the bringing over the poor *Palatines* was an Enemy to the Queen and Kingdom; and Care was soon afterwards taken to publish a Pamphlet, entitled, *A View of the Queen and Kingdom's Enemies*, &c. in which was inserted
 ' *A List of those Members of the late Par-*
 ' *liament that voted for the passing of the*
 ' *Act for Naturalizing Foreign Protest-*
 ' *ants, and consequently for the bringing*
 ' *over the Palatines.*' --- A Copy of this
 List

List is re-printed at the End of these Observations.

9. On the 14th of *December*, 1711, early in the next Session of the same Parliament, the House gave Leave to bring in a Bill to repeal the Act of 1708 for naturalizing Foreign Protestants.--- This Act, which received the Royal Assent the 9th Day of *February* following, recited, “*that*
 “*diverse Mischiefs and Inconveniencies*
 “*had been found by Experience to follow*
 “*from the Act of 1708, to the Discou-*
 “*agement of the natural born Subjects of*
 “*this Kingdom, and to the Detriment of*
 “*the Trade and Wealth thereof;*” but considering the Ocasion on which this Act was passed, and that no Evidence was laid before the House of any of these Mischiefs or Inconveniencies, every one is at Liberty to question their Existence until some better Satisfaction be produced concerning them; the only real Mischief that I ever heard followed from the Act of 1708, being the Handle it gave

to

to the abusing some of the ablest and best of the Queen's Subjects, who *brought in,* and *voted for it.*

10. But however Men's Opinions may be divided concerning the Utility of a General Naturalization of Foreign Protestants, as well poor as rich, they all agree in this, that whatever will encourage Foreigners who have Estates to settle in any Country, apparently tends to increase the Wealth and Strength of such Country.

11. If this Proposition be true of other Countries, it is more particularly so in this. The Alacrity Foreigners, as well as Natives, have lately shewn in advancing the Money necessary for the current Service of the Year, cannot fail at this Juncture of producing very National Effects; and yet it were to be wished that the Proprietors of this, and every other Part of our Debt, actually *lived* within the King's Dominions: But, instead

[11]

stead of this being the Case, the Share of the Publick Debt which belongs to Foreigners, chiefly *Dutch, Flemings, Swifs,* and *Jews*, is estimated to exceed *Fifteen* Millions, the annual Interest of which being about £. 600,000 Sterling, is either yearly *remitted* out of the Kingdom to Persons who contribute nothing towards the Taxes or Expence of the Government, or is laid out by them in *increasing* their Mortgage upon our Posterity. —

It is unnecessary to enlarge on this Subject; — the Consequences are obvious and certain --- unless prudently remedied; ---- the bare stating it is sufficient to convince every Person of the Expediency and Necessity there is of laying hold of every Thing that may encourage the foreign Proprietors of this Debt to follow their Property, and come and spend the Revenue of it amongst us.

12. This being so, there appears no Foundation in Reason to confine the

Bill to Protestants, and thereby exclude out of this Provision the *Jews* who reside abroad, and whose Property in the Public Debts amounts, as I have heard, to near Two Millions.

Sir *Josiah Child*, in his Discourse of Trade, [chap. vii. page 123] hath shewn the Utility of Naturalizing the *Jews*, and giving them the same Privileges they enjoy in *Holland*, and hath answered all the Objections that could be made against it, many of which, such as *their living miserably and penuriously, &c.* no longer subsist.

It seems unnecessary to quote his Reasons, the general Sense of Mankind, and of the Legislature, having concurred in Opinion with him as to this Point.

13. On the 30th of November, 1739, the House ordered in a Bill "for Naturalizing such Foreign Protestants as were
" settled,

“ settled, or should settle, in any of his Majesty’s Colonies in *America* ;” and the Bill was afterwards accordingly brought in, in that restrained Manner, but in the Committee it was extended to *Persons professing the Jewish Religion*, and the Title was varied, and expressed to be for Naturalizing such Foreign Protestants, and others therein mentioned, as were settled, or should settle, in any of his Majesty’s Colonies in *America* ; and in that Form it passed into a Law.

14. It is therefore submitted, that, instead of encouraging a Number of *poor* Foreigners to come and eat the Bread from our own needy Manufacturers, the Bill should extend to such only who are rich and wealthy, and who, on that Account, will become useful Subjects of the Common-wealth ; and, with this View, the Bill may be confined to Persons who, at the Time they take the Benefit of it, shall have a Property of the Value of

£. in this Kingdom, and who on their being Naturalized shall pay the Sum of £ 100, or such other Sum as shall be thought proper to the Use of the Publick, and that on their going to reside abroad the Privileges acquired by the Act shall *cease*. It is apprehended, that by these Restrictions most of the Objections that have been made against Bills of this Kind will be effectually obviated,

15. At a Time the Naturalization of Foreign Protestants and others is under the Consideration of the Legislature, it may not be improper to suggest to the Consideration of Gentlemen, a Matter I have often thought deserved their Notice. --- By several Edicts of the late King of *France*, which remain in Force, the *French* Protestants who took Refuge in this Kingdom, on account of their Religion, and their Descendants, are absolutely excluded from claiming any Inheritance,

ritance, real or personal, in *France*, by the Will or Intestacy of any of their Relations who reside there ; --- and yet, before the present War, there was not a Year passed in which large Sums of Money were not carried out of the Kingdom into *France* by *French* Subjects, claiming the same as Legatees, or next of kin to the *French* Refugees, or their Descendants, who dye in this Kingdom. The Sums of Money that in the Course of the last Forty Years have been by this Means lost to this Nation, and given to our natural Enemy, are very considerable ; --- the Fact is notorious to Persons who are the least conversant with what passes in the Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions within this Kingdom.

16. Our good Neighbours the *Dutch*, ever attentive to the pecuniary Interest of their People, took the Alarm, and on the 31st of *October*, 1709, the *States-General* issued a Placart, which continues
in

in Force; whereby they put the *French* on a Level with their Subjects, as to this Matter, by declaring that Persons residing in the Dominions of *France* should not claim any Effects of such Refugees inhabiting in their Dominions, either on account of Matrimonial Contracts, or of Successions *ab Intestato* or by Will, whether by Inheritance or Legacy.

17. A similar Provision was attempted in this Kingdom; the House of Commons having on the 23d Day of February, 1709, given Leave for bringing in a Bill “to prevent the Subjects of
“ the French King, residing in his Domi-
“ nions, from claiming or enjoying any
“ Estates of their Relations dying in her
“ Majesty’s Dominions;” and Mr. Hampden, Mr. Attorney-General, Mr. Solicitor-General, Sir Peter King, and others, were ordered to prepare and bring in the Bill.

18. The 1st of March, 1709, the Bill was accordingly brought in, whereby

by it was proposed to enact, " That no
 " Person or Persons whatsoever, which
 " was, or should be a Subject of the
 " *French* King, and did, or should actu-
 " ally inhabit, dwell, or reside in any
 " of the *French* King's Dominions,
 " should be capable of having, claim-
 " ing, inheriting, or enjoying, by ver-
 " tue of any Gift, Conveyance, Descent,
 " Devise, Will, Letters of Administra-
 " tion, Right of Distribution, or other-
 " wise, any Lands, Tenements, Here-
 " ditaments, Leases, Goods, Chattels,
 " or personal Estates whatsoever, ac-
 " quired by, belonging to, or descend-
 " ed or coming from any *French* Pro-
 " testant, or any Protestant descended of
 " or from a *French* Protestant Parent,
 " being her Majesty's lawful Subject, or
 " settled in any of her Majesty's Domini-
 " ons ; but that the same should descend,
 " go to, and be held and enjoyed by
 " such *French* Protestant, or Protestants
 " descended from *French* Protestant Pa-
 " rents,

"rents, being settled in her Majesty's
 "Dominions, or in the Dominions of
 "any other Protestant Prince, Repub-
 "lick, or State, in such Manner and
 "Form as if such Persons, Subjects of
 "the *French* King, and dwelling or re-
 "siding in his Dominions, who might
 "have had Right or Title thereto pre-
 "cedent to such Protestant Subject had
 "the said Act not been made, were
 "actually *dead*, and there was a Pro-
 "viso that the said intended Act should
 "not extend to Goods or Effects which
 "should be in any of her Majesty's
 "Dominions, and which should be-
 "long to any *French* Merchant or
 "Trader residing in the Dominions of
 "*France*."

In this Form the Bill received a *first*
 Reading, and was ordered to be read a
second Time, but for some *personal* Consi-
 derations, which do not *now* subsist, it
 was not then proceeded on; but it is sub-
 mitted,

mitted, that a Provision of this Kind,
either by a Clause in the Naturalization
Bill, or by a separate Bill, is at this Time
both equitable and prudent.

F I N I S.



printed, that a Provision of this kind
 either by a Clause in the Constitution
 Bill, or by a separate Bill, is at this time
 both expedient and necessary.



M E M B E R S of the late (1708)
I am aware that Voted for the
Felling of the "Wm Wain-
man" for the President and
Vice-President for the following over



A
L I S T
OF THOSE

MEMBERS of the late (1708)
PARLIAMENT, that Voted for the
Passing of the *Act for Natura-*
lizing Foreign Protestants; and,
consequently, for the bringing over
the *Palatines*.

N.B. *Those in Black brought the Bill into
the House.*

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